

Message Text

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ACTION AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 SCI-06 AID-20 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCEM-02 INT-08

NSF-04 AGR-20 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /179 W

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R 221133 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5119

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 7333

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TGEN

SUBJECT: ATOMIC ENERGY CHAIRMAN SETHNA ANNOUNCES
SECOND ATOMIC POWER PLANT FOR NORTHERN REGION

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM BOMBAY JUNE 13
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

BOMBAY 1172

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TGEN

SUBJECT: ATOMIC ENERGY CHAIRMAN SETHNA ANNOUNCES
SECOND ATOMIC POWER PLANT FOR NORTHERN
REGION.

1. AEC CHAIRMAN SETHNA ACCOMPANIED BY BARC DIRECTOR RAMANNA
AND CHAIRMAN ATOMIC POWER AUTHORITY SHAH IN PRESS CONFERENCE
IN BOMBAY ON JUNE 11 ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR SECOND ATOMIC REACTOR
POWER STATION AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL PLANS, RANGING FROM
EXPANSION OF TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION TO THE PROPOSED
100 MW RESEARCH REACTOR AT TROMBAY.

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2. PLANS FOR A SECOND ATOMIC REACTOR POWER STATION, THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF FOUR PROPOSED ATOMIC POWER STATIONS, WILL BE TAKEN UP IN OCTOBER 1973. THE NEW RS.21,000,000 POWER STATION, CONSISTING OF TWO 235 MW UNITS USING NATURAL URANIUM, IS ONE OF TWO PROJECTED FOR THE NORTHERN REGION (THE OTHERS ARE TO BE LOCATED IN THE WESTERN REGION AND THE SOUTHERN REGION). THE STATION IS EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIONAL IN 1981. DESIGN AND OTHER PRELIMINARY WORK HAS BEEN ALMOST COMPLETED FOR THE MODIFIED CANDU TYPE REACTOR TO BE SITED AT NERORA ON THE HARDAGANGE, ABOUT 15 MILES EAST OF AGRA, IN UTTAR PRADESH. ALTERNATE SITES UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE REPORTED TO BE IN SAURASHTRA, AT UKAI IN SOUTHERN GUJARAT, AND AT BHIMA IN MAHARASHTRA. DESIGNED ORIGINALLY AS 500 MW UNITS, THE PROPOSED FORERUNNERS FOR FUTURE 500 MW REACTORS ARE MODIFICATIONS MADE TO OVERCOME PRESENT PROBLEMS OF FABRICATION AND CASTING OF LARGE COMPONENTS. TRANSPORT OF LARGE UNITS FOR A 500 MW REACTOR FROM THE FABRICATION SHOPS TO THE STATION SITE ALSO PRESENTS A MAJOR HURDLE. CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE MORE THAN 80 PERCENT INDIGENOUS. CHAIRMAN SETHNA REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY HAS DONE AS MUCH AS IT CAN IN THIS RESPECT AND NOW IT IS UP TO INDUSTRY TO MATCH DAE'S PROGRAM WITH THEIR FABRICATION CAPACITY. HE SEES A NEED FOR THREE TO FOUR BIG UNITS TO FABRICATE EQUIPMENT AND ALSO FOR CASTINGS FOR PUMPS, ETC. THE COMMISSION DOES NOT WANT TO TAKE UP SUCH REPETITIVE JOBS AND WOULD LIKE THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE AND CAPACITY. THE COMMISSION ALSO PREFERS TO KEEP OUT OF THE PROBLEM OF NONAVAILABILITY OF SPECIAL RAW MATERIALS, LEAVING THIS TO INDUSTRY TO SOLVE.

3. THE DECISION ON THE EXPANSION OF THE TARAPUR STATION WHICH INCLUDES SETTING UP A PLUTONIUM PLANT COULD BE EXPECTED IN ABOUT A YEAR, ACCORDING TO MR. SETHNA. HE POINTED OUT THAT ANY ADDITION TO TARAPUR WOULD BE BASED ON NATURAL URANIUM AND WOULD BE INDEPENDENT OF THE ORIGINAL STATION. DETAILS ARE TO BE FINALIZED AT THE JUNE 14 TH CONFERENCE WITH THE FIVE YEAR PLANNING COMMISSION.

4. THE TIMES OF INDIA REPORTED MR. SETHNA STATING THAT
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RAJASTHAN POWER STATION WAS RUNNING WELL AND WAS SUPPLYING 50 TO 60 PERCENT OF THE ENERGY REQUIREMENTS OF THAT STATE.

5. DELAYS IN COMMISSIONING THE KALPAKKAM UNIT WERE DUE MAINLY TO BOTTLENECKS IN FABRICATION AS WELL AS POWER SHORTAGES AND NONAVAILABILITY OF IMPORTED RAW MATERIALS.

6. CHAIRMAN SETHNA ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT PLANS FOR A RS.3,000,000 100 MW NATURAL URANIUM METAL, HEAVY WATER MODERATED, REACTOR AT TROMBAY ARE IN THE WORKS. THE NEW RESEARCH REACTOR IS TO BE USED TO TEST PROTOTYPE FUEL ELEMENTS AND TO PRODUCE HIGH SPECIFIC ACTIVITY RADIOISOTOPES.

7. A PROPOSAL FOR RADIATION FOOD STERILIZATION UNIT FOR USE IN RETARDING THE SPOILAGE OF POTATOES, ONIONS AND WHEAT IS AT PRESENT WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND IT IS EXPECTED TO BE CLEARED IN 4 TO 5 MONTHS.

8. WORK ON THE INSTALLATION OF ISOMEDS, A RADIATION SOURCE USED FOR STERILIZATION OF MEDICINAL INSTRUMENTS AND SUPPLIES WAS PROGRESSING ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE.

9. PRESS REPORTS POUCHED.

10. USAEC SCI REP REQUESTS TEXT OF CABLE BE PASSED ON TO A. S. FRIEDMAN, DIRECTOR, DIP, USAEC, GERMANTOWN. SIGNED BANE

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